

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of ~~obtaining~~ making homopolymers and/or copolymers, in aqueous solution, ~~of ethylenically unsaturated monomers, comprising~~ characterised by the use of polymerizing one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers in the presence of phosphorous acid and/or its salts or sodium hypophosphite and by the neutralisation during the polymerisation of the ethylenically unsaturated monomers by the continuous addition, first of all, of and wherein during said polymerizing, the one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers are neutralized by the continuous addition of, first, one or more bases such as selected from sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide, and then one or more bases of selected from ~~alkaline earths such as~~ calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide, magnesium hydroxide or magnesium oxide.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~The A method of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers according to Claim 1, characterised in that~~ wherein said polymerizing is performed in the presence of phosphorous acid, and wherein the total required quantity of phosphorous acid used, is introduced before the start of the polymerisation polymerization as a load in the a tank bottom of the a polymerisation polymerization reactor.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~The A method of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers according to Claim 1, characterised in that~~ wherein said polymerizing is performed in the presence of sodium hypophosphite, and wherein all or some of the required quantity of sodium hypophosphite is introduced before the start of the polymerisation polymerization as a load in the a tank bottom of the a reactor.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The A method of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~required~~ quantity used of phosphorous acid and/or its salts, or of sodium hypophosphite is greater than or equal to 0.5% by weight with respect to the total mass of the monomer or monomers.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The A method of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide are added in the form of a solution, in the form of a powder or in the form of pellets.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~The A method of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide, magnesium hydroxide or magnesium oxide are added in the form of a suspension, in the form of a powder or in the form of the salts of the ~~corresponding~~ anionic monomers.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~The A method of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more ethylenically unsaturated ~~monomer or monomers is~~ comprise at least one ethylenically unsaturated anionic ~~comonomer monomer~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~The A method of obtaining homopolymers~~ according to Claim 7 1, wherein the one or more ethylenically unsaturated ~~monomer is~~ monomers comprise acrylic acid.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer in aqueous solution, obtained by the method according to Claim 1, wherein the degree of ~~neutralisation~~ neutralization of the active acid sites of the one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers is between 40% and 90%, limits included, ~~for the~~ resulting from the neutralization with one or more ions selected from sodium ion, potassium ion or lithium ions ion, and wherein the degree of neutralization of the active acid sites is between 10% and 60%, limits included, ~~for~~ resulting from the neutralization with one or more ions selected from the calcium ion and or magnesium ions ion.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The A-polymer in aqueous solution homopolymer and/or copolymer according to Claim 9, wherein said ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer is in the completely ~~neutralised~~ neutralized form.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The A-polymer in aqueous solution homopolymer and/or copolymer according to Claim 9, wherein said ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer is partially ~~neutralized~~ neutralized.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The A-polymer in aqueous solution homopolymer and/or copolymer according to Claim 9, wherein said ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer has a molecular weight, in Mw, ~~weight of~~ between 2000 and 16,000, determined by aqueous GPC ~~whose standards, used as references, belong to a series of sodium polyacrylates, sold by the company Polymer Standards Service under the names PSS-PAA varying from 18K to 2K.~~

Claims 13-18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): Aqueous suspensions of mineral materials containing the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer according to Claim 9.

Claim 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A process for grinding one or more minerals, said process comprising
grinding one or more minerals in an aqueous medium in the presence of the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution of Claim 9.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A process for dispersing one or more mineral materials, said process comprising
dispersing one or more mineral materials in an aqueous medium with the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution of Claim 9.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A process for making paper, said process comprising
mixing the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution of Claim 9 with a paper formulation, wherein the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution acts as a water retaining agent.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method of treating water, said method comprising
sequestering or inhibiting the precipitation and/or incrustation of minerals in an industrial or domestic water by mixing the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution of Claim 9 with said water.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A method for preventing scale or corrosion in the field of inverse osmosis and ultrafiltration, said method comprising
mixing the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution of Claim 9 with a fluid.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A method for treating a drilling fluid, said method comprising
mixing the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution of Claim 9 with said drilling fluid.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A method for preventing or treating scale, said method comprising
mixing the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution of Claim 9 with a detergent formula to form a mixture, wherein said mixture has a stable chlorometric rate of one or more hypochlorides present in said detergent.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method for dispersing an agent, said method comprising
mixing the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution of Claim 9 with a detergent formula to form a mixture, and
dispersing an agent with said mixture, wherein said mixture has a stable chlorometric rate of one or more hypochlorides present in said detergent.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A method for stabilizing a zeolite, said method comprising

mixing the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution of Claim 9 with a detergent formula to form a mixture, and

stabilizing a zeolite with said mixture, wherein said mixture has a stable chlorometric rate of one or more hypochlorides present in said detergent.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing an aqueous suspension of one or more mineral materials, said process comprising

mixing the ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer solution as claimed in Claim 9, with a paper, paint, ceramic, drilling fluid or detergent.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The method ~~of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers~~ according to Claim 6, wherein the salts of ~~the corresponding~~ anionic monomers are selected from the group consisting of calcium acrylate, calcium methacrylate, magnesium acrylate, magnesium methacrylate and a mixture thereof.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The method ~~of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers~~ according to Claim 7, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated anionic ~~comonomer monomer~~ monomer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, maleic anhydride, isocrotonic acid, aconitic acid, mesaconic acid, sinapinic acid, undecylenic acid, angelic acid, acrylamido methyl propanesulphonic acid, sodium methallylsulphonate and a mixture thereof.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The method ~~of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more ethylenically unsaturated

~~comonomer monomers~~ is an ethylenically unsaturated non-ionic comonomer are selected from the group consisting of acrylamide and methacrylamide.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The method ~~of obtaining homopolymers and/or copolymers~~ according to Claim ~~32~~ 1, wherein the one or more ethylenically unsaturated ~~comonomer monomers~~ comprise is an ethylenically unsaturated non-ionic comonomer monomer selected from the group consisting of ~~acrylic acid~~ acrylamide and ~~methacrylic acid~~ methacrylamide.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The ~~polymer in aqueous solution~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer according to Claim 12, wherein said ~~polymer~~ homopolymer and/or copolymer has a molecular weight, ~~in Mw, weight of~~ between 3500 and 6500.